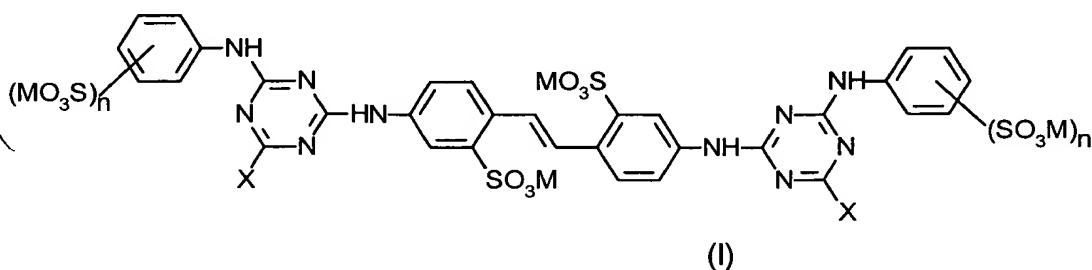


~~13.~~ A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (I)



in which

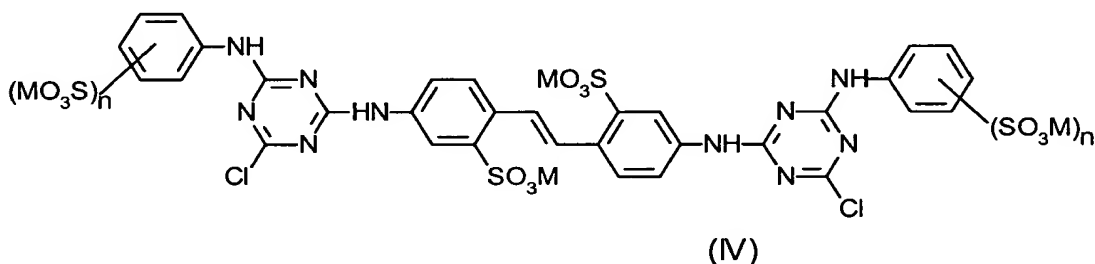
n represents 0, 1, or 2,

M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal ion, or an unsubstituted or substituted ammonium ion, and

X represents (i) anilino, (ii) N-alkylamino wherein the alkyl groups are optionally substituted and/or optionally interrupted by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, N, and S, or (iii) N,N-dialkylamino wherein the alkyl groups independently are optionally substituted and/or optionally interrupted by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, N, and S or the alkyl groups together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a saturated 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring,

comprising reacting in an aqueous reaction medium having a temperature of at least  $40^\circ\text{C}$  and a pH of 5 to 10

(1) a compound of the formula (IV)



wherein M and n have the same meaning as above,

with

(2) an amine of the formula (V)



wherein X has the same meaning as above, and

(3) optionally, an acid-trapping agent other than an amine of formula (V),

B1  
wherein the temperature of the aqueous reaction medium is at least 20°C higher than the temperature of the compound of formula (IV) being added and wherein the amine of formula (V) and the optional acid-trapping agent are independently added to the aqueous reaction medium before and/or during and/or after the addition of the compound of formula (IV).

14.2 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the aqueous reaction medium has a temperature of 60 to 140°C.

15.3 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the aqueous reaction medium has a temperature of 80 to 100°C.

16.4 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the reaction is carried out at a pH of 6 to 9.

17.5 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the reaction is carried out at a pH of 7 to 8.

18.6 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the compound of the formula (IV) is employed as an aqueous solution or suspension.

19.7 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the aqueous solution or suspension of the compound of the formula (IV) already contains all or a portion of the amine of the formula (V).

20.8 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the acid-trapping agent is an alkali metal hydroxide, alkali metal carbonate, alkali metal bicarbonate, or tertiary amine.

21.9 The process according to Claim 13 wherein the acid-trapping agent is metered in automatically as a function of the pH.

22.0 The process according to Claim 13 wherein n represents 0.--

#### REMARKS

Applicants' invention relates to a process for preparing compounds of formula (I) by reaction of corresponding halogen-substituted compounds of formula (IV) with amines of formula (V) in the presence of optional acid-trapping agents other than an amine of formula (V). The reaction is carried out in an aqueous reaction medium (which can, if desired, already contain the amine and/or trapping agent) that is already heated before the compound of formula (IV) is added.